

REMARKS

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of February 6, 2009. All of the Examiner's objections and rejections are responded to herein.

In The Office Action

Claim 22 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim.

Claims 43 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 1,362,296 to Hagan in view of JP 05-239558 to Osamu.

Claim 44 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable based on the combination of Hagan, Osamu, and DE 19919738 to Kuehn.

Claim 47 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable based on the combination of Hagan, Osamu, and WO 86/02103 to Barkman.

Claims 18, 21, 23-25, 29 and 36-42 are allowed.

Claim 22 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objection.

Claims 22 and 43-47 are Cancelled by way of this Amendment

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowance of claims 18, 21, 23-25, 29, and 36-42. In order to advance the instant case towards allowance, the remaining claims (claims 22 and 43-47) have been cancelled without prejudice to their reintroduction in a continuing application by way of this amendment.

Entry of the instant Amendment and issuance of a notice of allowance is earnestly and respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that entry of the instant Amendment (cancelling the previously rejected claims) places the instant application (and claims 18, 21, 23-25, 29, and 36-42) in condition for allowance. It is also submitted that the foregoing comments do not require additional search or examination.

No fees are believed to be due by way of this Amendment. However, if a fee is due, the undersigned attorney of record hereby authorizes the charging of any such fee(s), except for the issue fee, to Deposit Account No. 06-0308.

In the event, the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he or she is encouraged to call the undersigned at the phone number listed.

Respectfully submitted,

FAY SHARPE LLP

May 4, 2009

Date



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